



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,027	12/12/2003	Sumiya Nagatsuka	03747/LH	2460
1933	7590	03/20/2008	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC			STREGE, JOHN B	
220 Fifth Avenue			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
16TH Floor			2624	
NEW YORK, NY 10001-7708			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/20/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/735,027	Applicant(s) NAGATSUKA, SUMIYA
	Examiner JOHN B. STREGE	Art Unit 2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2007.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/20/07 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment received 12/20/07 has been entered in full.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamanaka et al. USPN 7,324,673 (hereinafter "Yamanaka").

Regarding claim 1, Yamanaka discloses an image processing apparatus which processes an image that is composed of two-dimensional image data corresponding to an image reading area of an image reader (col. 1 lines 9-15), comprising:

a specifying device which specifies an output-size within the image reading area of the image reader (see figures 3 numeral 216 [interested area designating section, col. 10 lines 44-51], and figures 23-24 wherein the size of the designated area is specified [col. 23 lines 33-58] ;

a determining device which selects only a part of the two-dimensional image data, smaller than an entire size of the two-dimensional image data, that corresponds to the output-size (figure 3 numeral 216), analyzes the selected part of the two-dimensional image data, and determines a processing condition for the selected part of the two-dimensional image data based on the analysis (image processing section 212 of figure 3 receives the interested area designation 216 as well as a processing condition [215 and 218] which is determined in order to process the section (col. 11 lines 47-51); and

a processing device which performs at least one of gradation processing to control image contrast, frequency processing to control image sharpness, and dynamic range compression to narrow the image contrast on the selected part of the two-dimensional image data based on the determined processing condition (see figure 4, col. 11 lines 47-51).

Regarding claim 2, the image is a medical image from an xray (col. 11 lines 1-4).

Regarding claim 3, the determining device recognizes data which is significant to diagnosis from the selected part of the two-dimensional image data (figure 3 numeral 214 (col. 11 lines 1-4).

Regarding claim 4, Yamanka discloses histogram analysis in figure 4 numeral 2124.

Regarding claim 5, Yamanka discloses an image display and as seen in figure 24 a trimming frame related to the output size is displayed.

Claim 6 is similarly analyzed to claim 1.

Claim 7 is similarly analyzed to claim 2.

Claim 8 is similarly analyzed to claim 3.

Claim 9 is similarly analyzed to claim 4.

Claim 10 is similarly analyzed to claim 5.

Claim 12 is similarly analyzed to claim 1.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN B. STREGE whose telephone number is (571)272-7457. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between the hours of 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John B Strege/
Temporary Partial Sig. Examiner, Art Unit 2624